

IN THE CLASSROOM

- What do you like about your classroom?
- Do you think the teacher should assign seats to students?
- What kind of classroom setting is the best for you?
- What are five things you like about your classroom?
- What are five things you don't like about your classroom?
- What are five things you would like to change in your classroom?
- What equipment for teaching is in your classroom?
- Do you like classroom with fixed desks or movable desks? Why?
- How much time a day do you spend in a classroom?
- How much time a day do you spend in a classroom looking out the window?
- Do you enjoy changing classrooms for different classes?
- What is the ideal seating plan or arrangement in a classroom?
- Is there any air conditioning in your classroom?
- Is your classroom a nice place to study?
- Do you like the location of your desk in your classroom?
- Do you think that smart students always sit down in front?
- Is it good to have only one teacher?

AT SCHOOL

.Are you allowed to eat in the classrooms?

- Are you allowed to smoke in the classrooms?
- Did you belong to any clubs in high school?
- Did you go to a public high school or a private one?
 - What are the advantages of each type of school?
 - Which type of school did you want to go to?
- Did you have to wear a uniform in high school? How about elementary school?
- Did you study art in high school?
- Did your high school have a band?
 - If so, did you play in it?
 - What instrument would you like to play in a high school band? Why?
- Do most of your teachers take attendance?
- Do some of your teachers let class out early?
 - What do you think when the teacher lets the class out early?
- Do you carry a dictionary to your English classes?
 - How about your other classes?
 - Do you have an electronic dictionary?
 - Can you and do you access your cellphone dictionary to find the meaning of a word?
- Do you enjoy studying English?
 - Math?
 - Science?
 - Art?
 - Biology?
 - Chemistry?
- Do you ever skip class?
- Do you have any evening classes?
- Do you play on any of the school's sports teams?
- Do you still keep in touch with your best friend in elementary school?
- Have you ever been absent?

- Have you ever been late for class?
 - If so, why?
 - When was the last time?
 - Did the teacher get angry?
- Have you ever failed a class? (Maybe this is not polite to ask.)
- Have you ever slept in class?
- How do you usually come here?
- How do you get to school?
- How long does it take you to get to school?
- How many times have you been absent from school this year?
- How much homework do you do every day?
- Was your high school strict?
- Were you on any sports teams in high school?
- What classes do you not like? Why don't you like them?
- What did you like best about high school?
- What do you like best about your school?
- What do you like the least about your school?
- What do you think about your English class? Your gym class?
- What do you think of our cafeteria?
- What do you think of this campus?
- What do you want to do after you graduate?
- What is your best memory from junior high school?
 - How about high school?
 - What's your worst memory?
- What school did you graduate from? What high school? What junior high school?
- What time does your first class begin on Tuesday?
- What was the name of your junior high school?
- What were some of the rules you had to follow at your high school?
 - Which rules did you think were unfair?
 - Did you ever get caught breaking any school rules?
 - Were you allowed to smoke on campus?
 - Were you allowed to eat food in the classroom?
- What's your favorite subject?
 - Why do you like it?
 - Who is the teacher?
 - How many times a week does the class meet?
- Which subjects are you good at? (What are your strong subjects?)
- Which subjects are you poor at? (Which subjects are difficult for you?)
- Who is your favorite teacher?
 - What course does he or she teach?
 - Why do you like him or her?
- What did you find the most surprising thing about the school system in the United States?
- What are the major characteristics you think a teacher should have?
- Do you have to wear a uniform to your school? (Did you have to...)Do you like wearing a uniform?
- Do you think school uniform is a good idea? Why/Why not?
- Are the clothes you wear to school important?
- Do you feel pressure to wear expensive, designer clothes to school?
- How are the customs in the classrooms in the US different from the customs that you have experienced in other places?
- Who do you like to sit with in your classroom?

- Do you like to be taught by a male or female teacher?
- Do you like to be taught by a female or male teacher?
- Which subjects do you think are not useful or needed anymore?
- What does the term coeducational mean?Did you go to coeducational schools?
- Are boys and girls treated differently by teachers in coeducational schools that you have attended? If so, how?
- Do you think girls work together much better if there are no boys around? Agree or disagree?
- Do you feel pressure to wear expensive, designer clothes to school?
- Do you think fashion is important at school?
- Is fashion also a kind of uniform?
- What did your school uniform look like in junior high school?

RESTAURANTS AND EATING OUT

How often do you eat out?

- Where do you usually go when you eat out?
- How much do you usually pay when you eat out?
- Who do you usually go with when you eat out?
- Do you like western food?
 - Japanese?
 - Thai?
 - Italian?
- Can you name restaurants in this area that serve food from other countries?
 - What kinds of foods do these restaurants serve?
 - Have you ever eaten at any of them?
- Do you ever eat greasy food?
 - Salty?
 - Sweet?
 - Spicy?
- Do you know how to order food in English?
 - Have you ever done so?
 - If so, was it easy to do so?
- Do you ever eat at McDonalds?
 - KFC?
 - Other fast food restaurants?
- What is your favorite appetizer?
 - Main Course?
 - Dessert?
- Do you ever drink alcoholic beverages when you eat out?
 - If so, what do you drink?
- Do you know what a Caesar salad is?
 - Buffalo wings?
 - Nachos?
 - Chicken fried steak?
- Did you enjoy eating out in other countries you have visited?
 - Which country had the best food?
 - Which foods did you enjoy the most?
 - Did you think the cost was high or low?
- Do you know anyone who has owned a restaurant?
- Have you ever worked in a restaurant?
 - If so, what kind of restaurant?

- How long did you work there?
- Did you enjoy your job?
- How many different types of salad dressing can you name?
- Do you worry about calories and fat content when you eat out?
 - How about cholesterol ?
 - How about insecticides and other chemicals in your food?
- Would you send a dish back if it did not taste good or if you received the wrong food?
- Do you ever leave a tip at a restaurant? How much?
- In what ways have people's eating habits changed over the years?
 - How have your eating habits changed over the years?
 - Have your eating habits change this last year?
- Do you think western food is too expensive? Why or why not?
- Have you ever had a restaurant cater a party at your house?
 - If not, would you consider it?
 - If so, were you happy with the service?
 - Would you do it again?
 - What kind of food did they serve?
- Who pays when you go out for dinner?
- What's the worst experience you ever had at a restaurant?
- What's the most disgusting food you ever ate in a restaurant?
- Do you like eating at buffets? Why or why not?
 - Where was the best buffet you've ever eaten at?
 - What kinds of foods were there?
- Have you ever eaten at an all you can eat restaurant?
 - Did you eat too much?
 - Do you think it was a good value?
 - Was the taste as good as a regular restaurant?
- Why do you think westerners are usually heavier than Asians?
- Do you ever order out from a restaurant?
 - What kind of foods?
- Do you think this area has a good variety of foreign restaurants?
 - What other kinds of restaurants would you like to see opened?
- Can kids eat free at any of the restaurants you go to?
 - Do senior citizens get a discount?
 - Are there times of the day when anyone can get a discount?
- Have you ever been to a restaurant with valet service?
- Do you like to try new restaurants, or do you prefer to go to those you have already been to? Why?
- Do you care what a restaurant looks like, or is the food the only thing you care about?
- What types of take out food do you enjoy eating?
- What do you think about children crying in a restaurant when you are trying to eat?
- What do you think about people smoking in a restaurant when you are trying to eat?
 - What would you think if you saw the cook at the restaurant smoking while he is cooking your food?
- Do you prefer fresh ingredients prepared by a chef as you order or do you prefer pre-cooked food?

MONEY AND SHOPPING.

- . About how much did you spend on presents last year?
 - About how much do you usually spend each day?
 - Are you a price conscious shopper?

- Are you good at saving money?
- Are you saving money to buy something?
 - If so, what are you planning to buy?
 - How much will it cost?
 - How much longer will you need to save before you can buy it?
- Do banks pay a higher percent of interest here or in your country?
- Do you compare prices at different stores when you shop?
- Do you enjoy shopping?
- Do you ever buy second-hand things? ("used things")
- Do you ever give money to charity?
 - How often do you give to charity?
 - How much do you give?
- Do you gamble?
- Do you give tips at a restaurant in your country? How about to taxi drivers?
- Do you haggle when you shop ?
- Do you have a credit card?
- Do you have a credit card? If so, do you have more than one?
- Do you have more than one bank account?
- Do you have to pay a sales tax in your country?
- Do you invest in the stock market?
- Do you often put money in the bank?
- Do you sometimes buy things that you don't need?
 - If so, give some examples.
- Do you sometimes give money to charities?
- Do you think that money can buy love?
- Do your parents give you an allowance? (Did your parents give...?)
 - How much? (Maybe not a good question to ask.)
 - What do you use it for?
 - How often do they give it to you?
- Have you ever been in debt?
- Have you ever owed money to people?
- Have you ever bought a lottery ticket?
- Have you ever found any money? If so, what did you do with it?
- Have you ever given money to a beggar?
- Have you ever given money to a homeless person?
- Have you ever had any money stolen from you?
- How important is money to you?
 - If you had no money, do you think you could be happy?
- How many different kinds of coins are there in your country? What are they?
- How much did you spend last week?
- How much did you spend yesterday?
- How much do you have to spend to eat a good meal at a restaurant in your country?
- How much do you spend on food each week?
- How much do you think it costs to fly to Guam?
- How much do you think it costs to stay at a hotel in London?
- How much do you usually spend each month on entertainment?
- How much do you usually spend each month on food?
- How much do you usually spend each month on transportation?
- How much does it cost to get a haircut in your country?
- How much does it cost to ride a bus in your country?
- How much is a liter of gasoline in your country?
- How much money did you make on your first job?

- (How much money do you think you will make on your first job?)
- How much money did you spend yesterday?
 - Where did you spend it?
 - What did you spend it on?
 - Do you often spend that amount in one day?
- How much money did your parents give you for an allowance when you were ten years old?
- How much money do you have on you now? (Maybe not a polite question to ask.)
- How much money do you have with you now? (Maybe not a good question to ask.)
- How much time did you spend the last time you went shopping?
- How often do you go shopping?
- If someone gave you a lot of money, what would you do with it?
 - If someone gave you a million dollars, what would you do with it?
- Some people say that "money makes the world go around." Do you agree? Why or why not?
- What bank do you use?
- What do you need to buy next?
- What do you spend most of your money on?
- What do you spend the most money on each month?
- What do you want to buy next?
- What is something that you have bought recently that cost a lot of money?
- What is something that you have bought recently that was a good bargain?
- What is something that you have bought recently?
- What is something that you want to buy, but don't have enough money to buy.
- What is something that you want to buy, but think you never will.
- What is the average salary in your country?
- What is the most expensive thing you've ever bought?
 - How much did it cost?
- What is your opinion of discount stores?
- What kind of things do you often shop for?
- What kinds of things are you saving your money for?
- What store did you like best and what store did you like least?
- What was the last thing you bought for someone else?
- What was the last thing you bought for yourself?
 - Where did you buy it?
 - why did you buy it?
- What was the last thing you spent money on?
- What's the most expensive thing you have ever bought?
- What's the most expensive thing you've ever bought?
- What's the most money you have spend on one thing?
- What's the most money you have spent on something to eat?
- What's the most money you have spent on something to wear?
 - What did you buy?
- What's your favorite place to shop?
- What's your favorite shopping area or store?
- Where did you buy ____? (your shoes / your watch / etc.)
 - How much did you pay?
 - When did you buy it/them?
- Where do you keep your money?
- Where do you usually buy food?
- Where is your favorite shopping area?
- Which costs more, a hamburger in America or a hamburger in your country?

- Which costs more, your telephone bill or your electric bill?
- Which do you prefer, large stores or small stores?
- Which do you think is more important, love or money?
- Which store do you go to the most often?
 - Where is it?
 - Why do you like to go there?
- Who do you often go shopping with?
- Who do you spend money on?
- In a marriage, do you think one person should handle the finances, or both?
- How do you think money helps make us happy?
- Do you think money is more important than love?
- How much money do you want to earn each month?
- What qualities must a person have to make BIG money?
- Should children get an allowance (pocket money) from their parents?
- When do you get your allowance?
 - How long does it last?
 - Is it enough money?
- How do you usually spend your money? What do you usually buy?
- How much should you give to your children?
- How much do you give to your children?
- Do you ever give money to beggars on the street? Why or why not?
- Do you ever give money to charity? Why or why not?
- If you found 100,000 won (or local currency) in a bag on the street, what would you do? Keep it?
- What are you saving your money for?
 - Do you want to buy something special?
- Who takes care of the money in your house?
- When you buy something, do you "shop around" and go to many stores to compare prices?
- When you buy something, what is most important to you: price, quality, fashion trend, status/image?
- Explain these proverbs: What do they mean? Say them in other English words.
 - The best things in life are free.
 - Time is money.
 - Save your pennies for a rainy day.
 - Money talks.
 - You can't take it with you when you go.
 - Money doesn't grow on trees
- Your rich uncle just died and gave you 50,000,000 won. (or local currency)
 - How would you spend it?
 - What would you buy?
 - Would you spend it on yourself, put it in the bank or buy something for your family?
 - Would you spend it all?
- What is the most you have ever spent on a gift?
 - What was it?
 - Who did you give it to?
 - What was the occasion?
- If you had to save money, what can you do without?
 - I would stop spending money on ____.
- If you needed to earn some extra money, how would you do that?
- If you had a large amount of money, what would you do with it?

- Have you or your family ever won any money in a lottery?
- How much money would you have to win to be happy?
- Why do people often want more money, no matter how much they have got?
- Why are poor people in many cases more generous than rich people?
- What are some reasons for people being poor? Can poverty be avoided?
- How do people become rich?
- Do you think that riches can have a bad effect on a person? How?
- What do you do if you can't get the clerk's attention at the store?
- Is it easier to return items in the U.S. or in your country?
- If you can't find an item at the store, do you find a clerk and ask for help, or do you leave and go somewhere else?
- If you don't want help when the clerk asks if you need help, what do you say?
- Is it OK to bring children to the market or the department store?
- Is it bad if one person or company controls the market that it specializes in?
 - For example, is it wrong for Microsoft to control most of the operating system software in the world?
 - Do you consider companies like Microsoft and people like Bill Gates smart and shrewd?
- Some questions about Taxation.
In New Zealand at the moment the government is thinking of imposing a "flatulence tax" on farmers for the livestock they own, as the flatulence contributes to Ozone depletion (supposedly).
- What is the most ridiculous tax in your country, past, or present?
- Do you think taxes in your country are too high/low?
 - What about New Zealand Taxes? / What about taxes here?
- What is the effect on the economy of high taxation?
- What is the effect on the economy of low taxation?
- What are some of the different kinds of taxes your country has?
- If you were the ruler of your country, what would you do to change the taxation system?
 - What is the funniest tax you can think of to introduce?
- What do you like spending money on? What don't you like spending on?
- What would you love to buy but you can't afford?
- What is the next "big" thing you are going to buy?
- Have you ever given money to people who beg in the streets?
- Do you have a credit card? How many?
- Is it better to pay cash or by credit card?
- What things do you pay cash for?
- What things do you pay by credit card?
- Do you pay your credit card on time?
- Have you ever paid late your credit card? What happened?
- Are credits cards a good thing?
- Do/Did your parents give you an allowance? How much?
- Have your parents ever given you a credit card to pay for something? What did you buy?
- Should parents give a credit card to teenagers?
- Have you ever lent money to someone? Who? What did he/she need the money for?
- Have you ever borrowed money from someone? Who? What did you need the money for?
- Who wouldn't you lend money to?
- Do you play the lottery?
- What kind of lottery do you play?

- Do you play football pools?
- Do you play slot machines?
- How much money do you spend for your son to go to the college?
- Can I put my money in a Swiss bank?
- Why do I always spend too much money?
- How much money do you need for happiness?
- How often do you go shopping? Are you a price-conscious shopper? Do you "shop around" and go to many stores to compare prices?
- Do you ever buy second-hand things ("used things")?
- When you buy something, what things are most important to you? Price? Quality? Fashion trends? status? or image?
- Do you haggle (bargain with the seller) when you shop?
- Do you give tips at a restaurant in your country? At a bar? How about to taxi drivers? To hairdressers? At hotels? At airports to people who carry your bags?
- Do you feel comfortable tipping?
- Do you have more than one credit card?
- What bank do you use? Do you like the service you receive?
- Do you think that taxes are too high?
- How do you think the government uses all the taxes they collect?
- Do you sometimes buy things that you don't need?
- Are you saving money to buy something? If so, what are you planning to buy? How much will it cost? How much longer will you need to save before buying it?
- Do you agree with the Beatles that "money can't buy you love"?
- Did your parents give you an allowance (pocket money) when you were a child? What did you use it for?
- Should children get an allowance from their parents?
- Do you ever gamble? Did you win anything?
- Have you ever found any money on the street? If so, what did you do with it?
- Do you ever give money to charity? How much do you give?
- Have you ever given money to a beggar or homeless person?
- Have you ever had any money stolen from you? What happened?
- What would you love to buy but that you can't afford?
- What would you do if you won a large sum of money? What is the first thing you would buy with it? Would you invest it?
- Would you give some money to charity?
- Would you help your family/friends?
- How long would it take you to spend 1 million dollars?
- Can a person be rich without having a lot of money or possessions? How?
- How important is money to you? If you had little money, could you be happy?
- How much do you spend each month on food? Where do you usually buy food?
- What do you spend most of your money on each month?
- How much did it cost you to fly here from your home country?
- How much does it cost to get a haircut in your country? Here?
- How much does it cost to ride a bus in your country? Here?
- How much is a liter of gasoline in your country? Here?
- Which costs more, a hamburger here or a hamburger in your country?
- If someone gave you a million dollars, what would you do with it?
- Some people say that "money makes the world go round." Do you agree?
- What is something that you bought recently?
- What is something that you want to buy, but think you never will?
- When did you open your first bank account?
- How old were you when you earned your first salary? What did you spend it on?

- Do you think that it is right for someone to beg for money?
- Would you give money to a beggar? Why?
- When you buy something, what things are most important to you: price, quality, fashion trends, status, or image?
- Do you have more than one bank account? Are you good at saving money?
- Have you ever bought a lottery ticket? Did you ever gamble?
- How much did it cost you to fly to here from your home country?
- If you had to save money, what could you do without? "I would stop spending money on ____".
- Why are poorer people in many cases more generous than rich people?
- If you don't want help when the store clerk asks if you need help, what should you say to them? (Hint: You can say, "Thanks, I'm just looking.")
- Do you think taxes in your country are too high/low? What are some of the different kinds of taxes your country has?
- If you were the leader of your country, what would you do to change the taxation system? What would you do to help your country's economy?
- Which shopping centers and stores do you like best and which do you like least?
- What was the last thing you bought for someone else? Why did you buy it?
- What's the most money you have spent on something to wear?
- Who takes care of the money in your family's home?
- What qualities must a person have to make "big money"?
- Do you often buy products that advertised on TV, newspapers or magazines? If so, what was the last item that you bought?
- Do you consider consumerism good or bad?
- What differences can you notice between commercials from 10 or 15 years ago and commercials today?
- Can you explain these proverbs in other words?
 - The best things in life are free.
 - Time is money.
 - Save your pennies for a rainy day.
 - Money talks.
 - You can't take it with you when you go.
 - Money doesn't grow on trees.

TRANSPORT

At what age does the average person obtain a driver's license?

- Can you ride a motorcycle?
- Do you drive a car often?
- Have you ever gotten a parking ticket?
- Are there speed limits in your country? If so, what is the average speed limit?
- Do you have a bicycle?
 - If so, when did you get it?
 - How much did it cost?
 - How often do you ride it?
 - What color is it?
- Do you have a car?
 - If not, does your family have a car?
- Do you have a driver's license? If so, when did you get it?
- Do you often ride public transportation during rush hour?
- Do you often use public transportation?
- Do you ride a bicycle more than once a week?

- Do you always wear a seat belt?
 - Even if you are riding in the rear seat?
 - How about on a bus?
- Does your mother have a driver's license?
- Have you ever been in a traffic accident?
- Have you ever been stopped for speeding?
 - (Have you ever gotten a speeding ticket?)
- Have you ever missed your last train or bus home? If so, how did you get home that night?
- Have you ever ridden a horse? How about a motorcycle?
- Have you every carpooled?
- How do you get to school?
 - How long does it take?
 - How much is the bus fare or the train fare?
- How do you think countries can reduce congestion on the roads?
- How many times have you traveled by airplane?
- How much does gasoline cost is your country?
- Is parking a problem in your country? (shopping malls, etc)
- Is there any environmentally-friendly transportation in your area?
- What are the most annoying bad driving habits of other drivers in your country (/or this country /or compared to this country)?
- What do you have to do to get a driver's license in your country? Do you think it's a good test?
- What do you need to do in your country to get a driver's license?
- What do you think is the most dangerous form of transportation? Why?
- What do you think is the safest form of transportation? Why?
- What do you usually do when riding a train or bus?
 - Do you read?
 - Do you sleep?
- What is the penalty for speeding in your country?
- What is your favorite kind of car? Why?
- What is your favorite make of car? Why?
- What kind of car do you have?
- What kind of things annoy you about other people's driving?
- What kind of transportation do you use most often?
- What's the most readily available form of public transportation where you live?
- What's your favorite color for a car?
- What's your favorite form of transportation?
- When was the last time you rode a bus?
- Where is a good place to go for a drive?
- Would you like to go on a cruise? Why or why not?
- Do you sometimes take a taxi (cab)?
- How do you "call" a taxi in your country from the side of the road? (ex. raise your hand in the air, etc.)
 - Is it expensive to take a taxi in your country?
 - Are there seat-belts in the taxis?
 - Is it common to give the cab driver a tip? If so, about how much do you give?
 - Does the cab driver open the door for you, or do you open it yourself?
 - Is it more appropriate to sit in the front or back of the taxi?
- How important do you think it is to use public transportation?
- Do you think that governments should encourage public transportation more?

- Do you think city governments should discourage use of privately driven cars within city limits?
- Do you have good public transportation where you live?
- How could public transportation in your city be improved?
- Do you think that we ought to be obligated to drive electrical and solar powered vehicles?
- Is the public transportation in your city efficient?
- Is public transportation in your city too expensive?
- If public transportation were free, would you use it more?
- Do you think that your city government maintains the public transportation well? In other words, are the buses and trains kept clean?
- Do you feel safe when you use public transportation?
- Do you feel safe going into the subway/metro/underground at all hours?

TRAFFIC

Have you ever seen a traffic accident?

- Have you been involved in a traffic accident?
- Do you know someone who has been involved in a traffic accident?
- Have you been injured in a traffic accident?
- Do you think talking on cell phones can help cause traffic accidents?
- Do you think a motorcycle rider should be required to wear a helmet?
- Do you think a person should be required to wear a seat belt?
- What kind of insurance do you have on your car?
- Have you ever hit an animal at night when you were driving your car?
- What kind of safety features in a car would help you if you had a traffic accident?
- Are traffic accidents a major cause of death in your country?
- Who dies in traffic accidents more? Young? Old? Children? Boys? Girls?
- How can traffic accidents be prevented?
- What are people not doing that they should to prevent deaths in traffic accidents?
- What are you not doing that you should to prevent deaths in traffic accidents?
- What should be done in order to prevent traffic congestion in your city?
- How do you feel about spending time in rush hours?

TRAVEL

Have you ever been abroad?

- Where have you been?
- Are you planning on going anywhere for your next vacation?
 - If so, where?
 - Who with?
 - How long will you stay?
- Are you afraid of going abroad alone?
- Could you live in another country for the rest of your life?
- Describe the most interesting person you met on one of your travels.
- What was your best trip.
- What was your worst trip.
- Did your class in high school go on a trip together?
 - If so, where did you go?
 - How long did you stay?
 - How did you get there?
- Do you have a driver's license?

- Do you like to travel with children? Why or why not?
- Do you like to travel with your mother? Why or why not?
- Do you prefer summer vacations or winter vacations?
- Do you prefer to travel alone or in a group? Why?
- Do you prefer to travel by train, bus, plane or ship?
- Do you prefer traveling by car or by plane?
- Have you ever been in a difficult situation while traveling?
- Have you ever been on an airplane?
 - How many times?
 - What airlines have you flown with?
- Have you ever been to a foreign country?
- Have you ever gotten lost while traveling? If so, tell about it.
- Have you ever hitchhiked? If so, how many times?
- Have you ever taken a package tour?
- How do you spend your time when you are on holiday and the weather is bad?
- How many countries have you been to? How many states?
- How many times have you traveled abroad?
- How much luggage do you usually carry?
- If you traveled to South America, what countries would like to visit?
- If you went to ____ (Insert a country name) ____, what kind of souvenirs would you buy?
- If you were going on a camping trip for a week, what 10 things would you bring? Explain why.
- What are some countries that you would never visit? Why would you not visit them?
- What are some things that you always take with you on a trip?
- What countries would you like to visit? Why?
- What countries would you most like to visit?
- What countries would you not like to visit? Why?
- What country do you most want to visit?
 - Why?
 - Do you think you will ever go there?
- What do you need before you can travel to another country?
- What is the most interesting city to visit in your country?
- What is the most interesting souvenir that you have ever bought on one of your holidays?
- What languages can you speak?
- What place do you want to visit someday?
- What was the most interesting place you have ever visited?
- What's the most beautiful place you've ever been to?
- When was the last time you traveled?
- When you are on a long car journey do you play games or sing songs to occupy your time?
 - What kind of games?
 - What songs?
- Where are you going to go the next time you travel?
 - When are you going to go?
 - Who are you going to go with?
 - How long are you going to go for?
 - What are you going to do there?
 - What kind of things do you think you will buy?
- Where did you go on your last vacation?
 - How did you go?
 - Who did you go with?

- Where did you spend your last vacation? Your summer vacation? Your Christmas vacation?
- Where will you go on your next vacation?
- Would you like to take a cruise? Where to? With who?
- Do you prefer traveling on a hovercraft or a ferry?
- Would you prefer to stay at a hotel/motel or camp while on vacation?
- Would you rather visit another country or travel within your own country?
- Would you rather go to a place where there are a lot of people or to a place where there are few people?
- Do you find more fulfillment from your leisure activities including vacations than from your job?
- Do you think the type of vacation one takes reflects one's social status?
- What are popular tourist destinations in your country?
 - Have you been to any of them?
 - Which would you recommend if you could only recommend one? Why?
- Do you prefer active or relaxing holidays? Why?
- Which is better, package tour or a tour you organize and book yourself?
- Why do you travel?
 - Why do people travel?
- Would you like to go back to the same place?
- Did you find anything of particular interest? / Did you get attracted to anything special?
- What are some benefits of travel?
 - Why do people travel?
- What is your favorite mode of travel?
- Have you travelled in business class?
- When you were a child did your family take a vacation every year?
- Do you prefer a budget or first class hotel? Why?
- Do you travel with a lot of baggage or do you like to travel light?
- What is your favorite method of travel at your destination? Train? Bus? Boat? Bicycle? Backpacking?
- What is the best kind of holiday for different ages of people? Children? Teenagers? Adults? Elderly people?
- Do you think it is a good idea to travel with friends, or alone? How about with your family?
- If you had \$100,000, where would you go on holiday? How about if you had \$10,000? What about \$1,000?
- Which countries have you travelled to?
- Do you prefer hot countries or cool countries when you go on holiday
- Who makes the decisions when your family decides to go on holiday
- If you could choose one place to go this weekend, where would it be?
- Has the airline ever lost your luggage? What happened?
- On long flights do you usually walk around the plane to avoid health problems?
- Have you ever read an interesting question in an in-flight magazine? What was it?
- Is there any difference between young tourists and adult tourists?
- Do you think tourism will harm the earth?

AT THE TRAVEL AGENCY (EXAMPLE OF A CONVERSATION)

Mr Khan goes to Asia Travels to **Make reservation** for his **flight** to Mumbai.

TRAVEL AGENT : Good morning, sir. What can I do for you?

CLIENT: I have to go to Mumbai in about a fortnight. I want to make a reservation.

TRAVEL AGENT: Would you like to Travel by air, sir?

CLIENT: I'd prefer to.

TRAVEL AGENT: If you could tell me the exact date of your journey, I'll let you know the position straightaway, sir.

CLIENT: I'm afraid I'm not too sure about the date. It could be some day in the first week of March.

Travel Agent: In that case, I can give you an **open-ended ticket** only. But there's a little snag is this **kind of booking**.

CLIENT: What kind of snag?

Travel Agent: When you finally decide on the date of your journey, it might be difficult for me to get you a seat exactly for that date, sir. You may have to accept the booking for one of the dates on which seats are available during that week.

CLIENT: (After talking to somebody on his cell phone) the date problem is solved now. I'll leave on the 6th.

Travel Agent: Let me see, sir...I'm very sorry, sir. There's no seat available on the **Spice Jet Airlines** flight for that evening. Could I book you for the **morning flight**?

CLIENT: Yes, you may.

Travel Agent: Sorry, sir, even that flight is full! Could I try for a booking on one of the Northline flights for that day?

CLIENT: No, not at all. I'd rather leave a day later than travel on Northline.

Travel Agent: Suppose I didn't find a seat on the Spicejet Airlines flight even for the 7th, could I book you on Northline or some other airline?

CLIENT: No way. I might as well travel by train or cancel my journey altogether.

Travel Agent: Very sorry, sir, for my inability to help you. I hope you'll give me another chance to serve you, sir.

CLIENT: Thank you.

Travel Agent: Thank you for calling at this travel agency, sir. Do call again, sir. Goodbye.

CITIES

Why do you like living in the city?

- What are some of the advantages of living in a city?
- What are some of the disadvantages of living in a city?
- Do you know the neighbors who live near you?
- What's your favorite city? Why?
- What city do you live in?
 - What part of this city do you like the best?
 - Can you describe the city?
- What aspects of life in the city would you complain about?
- What do you think should be done to improve living condition in cities?
- What are some differences between living in the city and living in the country?
- What size city is best to live in? Why?
- What are the names of two big cities in Europe?
- What are the names of two small cities in Europe?

- Would you prefer to live in a really old historical city, or a really new modern city?
- If you had grown up in a different city, how would your life have been different?
- Did you grow up in the city or in the country?
- Would you enjoy designing a new city ?
- Do you walk alone at night in your home city?
- Would you want to be the mayor of your city?
 - What would you do?
 - How would you change things?
 - Do you think you could make big changes in your city?
- Would you want to be a member of the city council of your city?
- What monuments of your city do you consider the most impressive? Why?
- Do you like modern cosmopolitan architecture?
- How would you describe the architecture of your city?
- Which cities do you feel safe in?
- Which cities have the best bus services/taxis/metro?
- How can we make our cities safer places to live?
- Do you think that each city should have their own laws or could all cities share the same general laws?
- What would you do if you were in charge of a city? How would you improve it?
- Do you know if your city has a disaster plan for earthquakes, fires, tsunamis, etc?
 - If so, what is the plan?
 - In your opinion, is it a good/sufficient plan?
 - What changes would you make?
- Do all the cities in your country or the U.S. have the same educational system?
- Can you suggest some good tourist sites to visit in your city?
- Does your city have a professional or semi-professional sports team?
 - How many teams are there?
 - What are sports?
 - What are the team's names?
 - Do you go and watch some of these sports? How much does it cost?
 - Do some of these teams win championships?
- What are you doing to reduce the amount of pollution in your city?
 - Does your city have any laws about dealing with pollution?
 - Do you follow them?
 - How do you sort garbage in your city?
 - Do you recycle on a regular basis?
- If you had grown up in a different city, how would your life have been different?
- Would you enjoy designing a new city?
- Can you name two cities in twenty different countries around the world?
- Do you think some cities are becoming too large? Why?
- What are some tourist attractions in your city?
- What are some historical places in your city? Have you visited them?
- What's the most prestigious university in your city?
- What are the major problems in your city?
 - What are some long term problems?
 - What are some recent problems?
 - What is your city doing to solve these problems?
 - What do you think should be done to solve them ?
 - What are you doing to help solve these problems?
- Where's the trendiest area in your city? Do you enjoy going there?
- who are some famous personalities from your city?
- What would you do to improve some aspects of your city?

- Which city's sports team do you cheer for?
- Is your city very cosmopolitan?
- What are some cosmopolitan cities around the world
- What is the most important part of a city?
- Who is the local government head in your city?
- Which cities would you like to visit in your home country?
- Which cities would you like to visit around the world?

AT THE HOTEL: VOCABULARY

Word <i>part of speech</i>	Meaning	Example sentence
adjoining rooms <i>noun</i>	two hotel rooms with a door in the centre	If you want we can book your parents in an adjoining room .
amenities <i>noun</i>	local facilities such as stores and restaurants	We are located downtown, so we are close to all of the amenities .
attractions <i>noun</i>	things for tourists to see and do	The zoo is our city's most popular attraction for kids.
baggage <i>noun</i>	bags and suitcases packed with personal belongings	If you need help with your baggage we have a cart you can use.
Bed and Breakfast <i>noun</i>	a home that offers a place to stay and a place to eat	I can book you into a beautiful Bed and Breakfast on the lake.
bellboy <i>noun</i>	a staff member who helps guests with their luggage	The bellboy will take your bags to your room for you.
book <i>verb</i>	arrange to stay in a hotel	I can book your family in for the weekend of the seventh.
booked <i>adj</i>	full, no vacancies	I'm afraid the hotel is booked tonight.
brochures <i>noun</i>	small booklets that provide information on the local sites and attractions	Feel free to take some brochures to your room to look at.
check-in <i>verb</i>	go to the front desk to receive keys	You can check-in anytime after four o'clock.
check-out <i>noun</i>	return the keys and pay for the bill	Please return your parking pass when you check-out .
complimentary breakfast <i>noun</i>	free of charge	All of our rooms have complimentary soap, shampoo, and coffee.
cot, rollaway bed <i>noun</i>	a single bed on wheels that folds up	If you need an extra bed, we have cots available.
damage charge	money a guest owes for	We will have to add a damage

<i>noun</i>	repairs to hotel property (when caused by violent or careless acts)	charge for the hole you put in the wall.
deposit <i>noun</i>	amount paid ahead of time to secure a reservation	You will not receive your deposit back if you cancel.
double bed <i>noun</i>	a bed large enough for two people	They are a family of four, so give them a room with two double beds .
floor <i>noun</i>	a level of the building	The swimming pool is on the main floor .
front reception desk , <i>noun</i>	the place where guests go to check in and out and to get information	Towels are available at the front desk .
guest <i>noun</i>	a person that is staying at the hotel	Our washrooms are for guests only.
hostel <i>noun</i>	a very inexpensive place for backpackers and travelers on a budget	In the hostel you probably won't get your own room.
hotel manager <i>noun</i>	person in charge at the hotel	I'll let you make your complaint to the hotel manager .
housekeeping, maid <i>noun</i>	staff members that clean the rooms and linen	Put a sign on the door if you want housekeeping to come in and change the sheets on the bed.
ice machine <i>noun</i>	a machine that automatically makes ice that guests can use to keep drinks cold	There is an ice machine by the elevator on all of the even numbered floors.
indoor pool <i>noun</i>	place for guests to swim inside the hotel	The heated indoor pool is open until 10 pm.
inn <i>noun</i>	another word for "hotel"	There's an inn on the other side of town that has a vacancy.
Jacuzzi, hot tub, whirl pool <i>noun</i>	a small hot pool for relaxation	Our honeymoon room has a personal hot tub .
king-size bed <i>noun</i>	extra large bed	A room with a king size bed costs an extra ten dollars a night.
kitchenette <i>noun</i>	a small fridge and cooking area	Your room has a kitchenette so you can prepare your own breakfasts and lunches.
late charge <i>noun</i>	a fee for staying past the check-out time	You will be charged a ten dollar late charge for checking out after 11 am.
linen <i>noun</i>	sheets, blankets, pillow cases	We will come in and change the linens while you are out of your

		room.
lobby <i>noun</i>	large open area at the front of the hotel	You can stand in the lobby and wait for your bus.
luggage cart <i>noun</i>	a device on wheels that guests can push their luggage on	Please return the luggage cart to the lobby when you are finished with it.
maximum capacity <i>noun</i>	the most amount of people allowed	The maximum capacity in the hot tub is ten people.
motels <i>noun</i>	accommodations that are slightly cheaper than hotels	Our motel is very clean and is close to the beach.
noisy <i>adj</i>	loud	The guests next to you have complained that you are being too noisy .
parking pass <i>noun</i>	a piece of paper that guests display in the car window while in the hotel parking lot	Display this parking pass in your window to show that you are a hotel guest.
pay-per-view movie <i>noun</i>	extra charge for movies and special television features	If you order a pay-per-view movie, the charge will appear on your bill.
pillow case <i>noun</i>	the covering that goes over a pillow	Room 201 doesn't need their sheets changed, but they requested one new pillow case .
queen size bed <i>noun</i>	bed with plenty of space for two people (bigger than a double)	They have a queen size bed so the small child can easily fit in the middle.
rate <i>noun</i>	cost of renting a room for a certain time period	Our rates change depending on the season.
reservation <i>noun</i>	a request to save a specific room for a future date	They say they made a reservation but it doesn't show on the computer.
room service <i>noun</i>	delivery of food or other services requested by guests	If you would like a bottle of wine, just call room service .
sauna <i>noun</i>	a hot room for relaxation, filled with steam	We don't recommend bringing young children into the sauna .
single bed <i>noun</i>	a bed for one person	The economy priced room includes one single bed .
sofa bed, pull-out couch <i>noun</i>	a bed built into a sofa or couch	The room contains a sofa bed so the room actually sleeps five.
towels	used to cover and dry the	You can get your swimming

<i>noun</i>	body after swimming or bathing	pool towels at the front desk.
vacancy <i>noun</i> vacant <i>adj</i>	available rooms	We only have one vacancy left, and it is for a single room.
valet <i>noun</i>	staff that parks the guests' vehicles	If you leave your car keys with us, the valet will park your car underground.
vending machine <i>noun</i>	a machine that distributes snacks and beverages when you insert coins	The vending machine on the fifth floor has chocolate bars and chips.
view <i>noun</i>	a window that offers a nice image for guests	The room is more expensive because it has a spectacular view of the beach.
wake up call <i>noun</i>	a morning phone call from the front desk, acts as an alarm clock	What time would you like your wake up call ?
weight workout gym <i>noun</i>	room, room, a room that guests can use for exercise and fitness	Our weight room has a stair climber and a stationary bicycle.

AT THE POST OFFICE: VOCABULARY

A address addressee adhesive advertisements air mail B <u>book rate</u> box bulk buy C cancelled circulars clerk code commemorative communication confirm correspondence D	F fast first flat foreign form forward freight from I insurance international J junk mail L letter <u>letterhead</u> library rate M magazine mail	O office open ounce overnight overseas P pack package packing paper <u>parcel</u> penpal periodical pickup PO post postage postcard postal postal	S sack satchel seal send service ship special stamp stamp stationery T tape to tracking truck U uncancelled undeliverable unopened W
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deliver delivery dispatch domestic drop E envelope express	mailbox mail mailer mail media meter	carrier truck	postmark postmaster post post office pound priority R rate receipt recipient return returned	office box address	weigh weight wrap write Z zip zone code
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ON THE PHONE: EXPRESSIONS

Answering the phone

Good morning/afternoon/evening, York Enterprises, Elizabeth Jones speaking.

Asking for the caller's name

Who's calling, please?

Could I take your name, please?

Introducing yourself

This is Paul Smith speaking.

Hello, this is Paul Smith from Smith Brothers Ltd.

Asking for someone

Could I speak to John Martin, please?

I'd like to speak to John Martin, please.

Could you put me through to John Martin, please?

Could I speak to someone who ...

Explaining absence

I'm afraid Mr Martin isn't in at the moment.

I'm sorry, he's in a meeting at the moment.

I'm afraid he's on another line at the moment.

Putting someone on hold

Just a moment, please.

Could you hold the line, please?

Hold the line, please.

Problems

I'm sorry, I don't understand. Could you repeat that, please?

I'm sorry, I can't hear you very well. Could you speak up a little, please?

I'm afraid you've got the wrong number.

I've tried to get through several times but it's always engaged.

Could you spell that, please?

Putting someone through (connecting someone)

One moment, please. I'll see if Mr Jones is available.

I'll put you through.

I'll connect you.

I'm connecting you now.

Taking a message

Can I take a message?

Would you like to leave a message?

Can I give him/her a message?

I'll tell Mr Jones that you called.

I'll ask him/her to call you as soon as possible.

AT THE DOCTOR'S/HOSPITAL**Common Questions Your Doctor Might Ask You**

- What seems to be the problem?
- How can I help you today?
- What can I do for you?
- How long have you been experiencing these symptoms?
- Are you in pain?
- Can you describe the pain?
- Does the pain get worse when you do something?
- Are you taking any medication for the pain?
- What prescription drugs are you taking?
- Do you have any allergies?
- Are you pregnant? (if you are a woman)
- Is that uncomfortable?
- Does that hurt?

Common Directions or Instructions During an Examination

- Lay down on the examination table/bed.
- Squeeze my hands.
- Relax your leg/arm.
- Tell me when it hurts.
- Stand and face the mirror.
- Breath in (inhale), breath out (exhale).
- Take off your pants/shirt/sweater etc.

These are just some of the many questions or directions that your doctor might ask or say to you during a consultation. They will vary depending on why you are visiting. (Back pain, heart problems or stomach pains...)

Preparing for Your Appointment

My best advice is to write down and describe your symptoms **before you go** to the doctor.

Sit down with a good dictionary or use an online version to find the correct words to describe how you feel.

For example, do you know how to effectively describe pain? In English, as in other languages, there are many different forms of pain.

- Dull pain
- Sharp pain
- throbbing pain
- slight pain
- tingling or numbness (sensation)
- burning pain
- itchy
- cramps

Try to be as specific as possible, so that your doctor can assess you accurately.

For more useful vocabulary regarding illnesses, visit my free learning guide on illnesses.

Phrasal Verbs at the Doctor's Office

Here are some common phrasal verbs that you might hear while at the doctors office.

- Please **lay down** on the examination table.
- I'd like you to **look up** and then **look down** as I shine this light in your eyes.
- You need to **cut down** on the amount of sugar you eat.
- You can **put on** your shirt now.
- **Sit down** here, while I write you a prescription.
- You need to **take** better **care** of yourself.
- How many times a week do you **work out**?

AT THE POLICE STATION

.How do the police help you?

- Do you have any friends who are policemen?
- Are you afraid of the police?
- What are some situations when you would call the police?
- Can you think of some situations when you wouldn't want to call the police?
- Can you describe the police uniform of the policemen in your country?
- What do you think about police in your country?
 - Are they effective?
 - Do you trust them?
- Would you like to be a police officer?

- Do you think that it is a very dangerous job?
- Do you think that a male police officer is required to do different or more difficult or dangerous jobs than a female police officer?
- Do you have any friends that are police officers?
- Have you ever been stopped by the police?
- Have the police ever helped you? How?
- What is the general feeling towards police in your country, is it positive or negative?
- Do policemen in your country ask for bribes?
- Have you ever bribed the police? How much was the bribe?
- Did you bribe in U.S. dollars or local currency?
- Do you think police are well paid in your country?
- Have you ever seen a police officer collecting bribe before? Where and when?
- What do you think would happen if all police officers decide to go on a strike?
- Do you hate the police?
- Do you think the police in your country are corrupt?
- Would you like to be a police officer?
- Do you want to be a policeman?
- How do you refer to a policeman in your country?
- Are there women who join the police force in your country?
- What are the qualities a good cop should have?

AT THE BANK (VOCABULARY)

account	n. a record of money a person deposits into a bank
ATM	<i>n.</i> Automatic Teller Machine aka Hole in the wall.
balance	<i>n.</i> the difference between credits and debits in an account
bank	n. a building in which commercial banking is transacted.
bank charges	<i>n.</i> money paid to a bank for the bank's services etc
banker's draft	<i>n.</i> a cheque drawn on the bank (or building society) itself against either a cash deposit or funds taken directly from your own bank account.
barter	v. to trade without using money.
borrow	v. to ask for the temporary use of money on the condition of repayment and at a set rate of interest.
branch	<i>n.</i> local office or bureau of a bank
building society	<i>n.</i> A building society is like a bank, but it is owned by its members - savers and borrowers - and not by shareholders. Its traditional purpose was to lend money to individuals to purchase or remortgage their homes. This money used to come exclusively from individual saving members who are paid interest on their deposits. Now, an increasing proportion, but still a minority of the funds are raised on the commercial money markets.
cashflow	<i>n.</i> cash earnings minus cash outflows for fixed- and working-

	capital investment.
cashier	<i>n.</i> an employee of a bank or building society who receives and pays out money.
chequebook	<i>n.</i> book containing detachable cheques
cheque	<i>n.</i> written order to a bank to pay the stated sum from one's account
counterfeit	n. fake money made in order to deceive - also v.
credit	<i>n.</i> money in a bank a/c; sum added to a bank a/c; money lent by a bank - <i>also v.</i>
credit card	<i>n.</i> (plastic) card from a bank authorising the purchasing of goods on credit
currency	<i>n.</i> money that is used by a country such as the United Kingdom.
current account	<i>n.</i> bank a/c from which money may be drawn at any time; checking account US
debit	<i>n.</i> a sum deducted from a bank account, as for a cheque - <i>also v.</i>
debit card	n. you use a debit card in much the same way as a credit card but instead of receiving credit after making your purchase, the funds are automatically (within a few days usually) withdrawn from your bank account.
debt	n. the state of owing something (especially money).
denomination	<i>n.</i> a number that expresses the value of a coin or bill. A five pound note and a ten pound note represent two denominations.
deposit	n. an amount of money placed with a bank
deposit account	<i>n.</i> bank a/c on which interest is paid; savings account US.
fill in	<i>v.</i> to add written information to a document to make it complete.
foreign exchange	<i>n.</i> Used to describe the currency of other countries and the system for dealing in such currency (often shortened to Forex).
interest	<i>n.</i> money paid for borrowing money, or money that a bank or building society pays a customer for putting money into their bank.
interest rate	<i>n.</i> the percentage of an amount of money which is paid for the use of that money over a period of time.
lend	v. to give the temporary use of money on the condition of repayment and at a set rate of interest.

loan	<i>n.</i> money lent by a bank etc and that must be repaid with interest - <i>also v.</i>
mortgage	n. most of us do not buy our homes outright for cash - instead we borrow money to do so.
overdraft	<i>n.</i> deficit in a bank account caused by withdrawing more money than is paid in
pay	<i>v.</i> To give (someone) money that is due for work done, goods received, or a debt incurred.
pay	<i>n.</i> Money paid to someone for regular work. Also see salary.
pay in	<i>v.</i> to deposit or put money in to a bank account
payee	<i>n.</i> person to whom money is paid
paying-in slip	<i>n.</i> small document recording money that you pay in to a bank account
pence	n. more than one penny.
pension	<i>n.</i> A regular payment made during a person's retirement (when they become too old to work) from an investment fund to which that person or their employer has contributed.
salary	n. A fixed regular payment, typically paid on a monthly or biweekly basis made by an employer to an employee.
standing order	<i>n.</i> an instruction to a bank to make regular payments
statement	<i>n.</i> a record of transactions in a bank account
withdraw	<i>v.</i> to take money out of a bank account
withdrawal	<i>n.</i> the act of taking out money.

VISITING AND HOSTING GUESTS

Visiting friends and family abroad (advice)

When travelling overseas to visit friends and family, it's all too easy to feel you're simply going 'home' because you feel familiar with your destination.

You may have been there many times before - you may have even lived there. But things can still go wrong whatever country you are in and it is important to make sure you take the right precautions before you leave the UK.

Dual nationals

- if you're a dual national of both Britain and the country you are visiting, it is important to know that the British government can only help you in exceptional circumstances.

Get comprehensive travel insurance

- you'll still need comprehensive insurance even if you are staying with family or friends.
- if you are a dual national, seek advice from your insurer on whether this affects your cover

Visit your GP

- even if you have lived in a country in the past, you may no longer be immune to diseases common in that region, and your children definitely won't be
- make an appointment with your GP as soon as possible to discuss your travel plans and to find out which vaccinations or medication you might need
- malaria is a particularly serious problem - around 2000 British travellers return home with the disease each year. Make sure you protect yourself if you are returning to a malarious region
- see travel health for more information

Get the latest information about your destination

- although you may be familiar with your destination, the situation of a country can change very quickly – check our travel advice by country before you travel and whilst you're there

Get your documents in order

- check the entry requirements for a country - how much validity you need on your passport - and what visas you'll need. You'll find this information in our travel advice by country, or by contacting the relevant embassy.

Know what you can and can't bring back into the UK

- it is illegal to bring meat and dairy products into the UK from countries outside of European Union
- there are also restrictions on importing plants and some animal products and you could face strict penalties for failing to declare restricted items
- check what you can and can't bring back

AT THE CINEMA, THEATRE, ETC...

- 1 I like watching films/plays.
- 2 I prefer going to the cinema/theatre because it's more interesting.
- 3 What's on at the cinema/theatre?
- 4 How much is a ticket?
- 5 Are there any tickets for Saturday?
- 6 I'm interested in crime and adventure films.
- 7 Last week I watched the film/play "Independence Day".
- 8 My favourite actor/actress is
- 9 What about going to the cinema/theatre together?
- 10 The film/play was exciting, not boring.

LOOKING FOR ACCOMMODATION

Background

Small ads are short advertisements which are found in local and national newspapers, and sometimes on notice boards in shops, colleges etc. In newspaper and magazine adverts, each word and/or letter has to be paid for, so to make them cheaper, people often use short forms and abbreviations, and some non-essential words are not used.

This worksheet will focus on the language used to advertise accommodation.

People

Advertisers often state what type of person they are looking for. They generally do this by using adjectives, such as **clean**, **quiet**, etc. but nouns and compound nouns may be used too.

professional / prof. (adj/n)

somebody who has a job.

Examples:

Rooms available: professionals only.

Prof. male required for shared house.

mature (adj)

this word is used to describe an older, quieter, more responsible person.

Example:

Mature lady wanted for single room.

easy-going (adj)

friendly and relaxed.

Example: Easy-going guy wanted for student house.

n/s (adj/n) non-smoker

Example:

n/s prof. lady wanted for single room.

landlord / landlady (n)

The person who owns the accommodation. A landlord is male, a landlady is female.

tenant (n)

The person who pays rent to live in the accommodation.

lodger (n)

A person who lives with his / her landlord.

mixed (adj)

This means that both men and women are living in the accommodation.

Types of accommodation**flatshare / houseshare (n)**

This refers to the situation of sharing a house or flat with people who are not your family.

Example:

Alice says: 'bright, sunny room in mixed flatshare.'

bedsit (n)

A type of accommodation where you live and sleep in the same room. The bathroom and kitchen may be shared with other people who live in the same building.

Example:

Bedsit to let: suit student or young professional.

self-contained (adj)

Self-contained accommodation means that the kitchen, bathroom and other rooms are not shared with anyone else, and the accommodation has its own door which is not used by anyone else.

Example:

Self-contained single flat to let.

studio flat /apartment (n)

A flat or apartment which does not have a separate bedroom and/or kitchen, but it has its own bathroom.

Example:

Clean, quiet studio flat. Reasonable rent.

(fully) furnished / part furnished / unfurnished (adj)

Advertisers often say how much furniture is provided.

fully furnished = all the necessary furniture is provided.

part furnished = some of the necessary furniture is provided: the tenant might have to buy some additional furniture.

unfurnished = no furniture is provided.

single room / double room

A single room is suitable for one person; a double room is suitable for two people.

Example:

Single room avail. end March.

bed

Bedroom.

Example:

3 bed flat avail. Dec. Reasonable rent.

all mod cons

'mod cons' means 'modern conveniences' - things like a telephone, washing machine, dishwasher etc.

Example:

2 bed flat avail. Dec. Reasonable rent.

close to all amenities

amenities are shops and services that people like to have close to their houses - such as schools, banks, doctors, stations etc.

Example:

3 bed house avail. Dec. suit family. 5 mins from schools & amenities.

Money

reasonable rent:

Advertisers do not always write the exact cost of the accommodation in the advertisement. 'Reasonable' usually means that the rent is not too expensive, or that it is the same as the rent for other similar accommodation in the same area.

negotiable / negot.

This means that the landlord is willing to talk about the rent and agree on a price that is acceptable to both the landlord and the tenant.

pcm

per calendar month. Sometimes rent has to be paid every 4 weeks, but pcm means that the rent is payable on the same **date** each month, often the 1st.

Example:

Bedsit to let. £500 pcm.

incl.

Inclusive - the rent includes the cost of gas, electricity etc.

Example:

Wanted: young prof. for studio flat. Rent £200 pcm incl.

deposit / dep. (n)

This is an amount of money which the tenant pays to the landlord / landlady when s/he moves in to the accommodation. The landlord / landlady gives the money back to the tenant when s/he moves out.

Example:

3-bed flat avail. end Dec / beg. Jan. £500 pcm + £500 dep.

Other words and abbreviations

avail.

Available

end

At the end of

beg.

At the beginning of

to let

Available for rent

suit

Suitable for (a particular type of person)

Example:

To let: 2 bed flat. avail. beg. Jan. Suit n/s prof.

Vocabulary:

from the top

repeat from the beginning

mixed

both men and women are living in the same house

close to all amenities

amenities are shops and services that people like to have close to their houses - such as schools, banks, doctors, stations etc.

allergy

an unusual sensitiveness of the body which causes certain people to be affected in a bad way by something usually harmless

all mod cons

'mod cons' means 'modern conveniences' - things like a telephone, washing machine, dishwasher etc.

small ads

short advertisements which are found in local and national newspapers, or on notice boards in shops, colleges etc.

go with

choose, decide

The Gazette; The Courier

These are typical names for newspapers.

AT THE PHARMACY/CHEMIST

In England, high-street chemists stock a huge range of toiletries (items for personal hygiene), baby products, cosmetics, perfumes and medicines. Dispensing chemists also fill prescriptions (given to you by your doctor) and some even develop films for you.

Baby care

Many people buy nappies (diapers) for their babies at chemists. Along with the nappies are other products for babies, such as nappy cream, cotton wool buds (lengths of plastic tipped with soft cotton to clean a baby's ears, for example), baby wipes (to help clean a baby) and so on.

Hair care

Chemists also stock a range of hair products. You can buy shampoo and conditioner (to wash your hair) and products to colour hair. For styling your hair you can buy gel or mousse, which act a bit like glue to keep your hair in a particular style. You can also buy hair brushes or combs, to make your hair neat, and hair grips and hair slides, which are plastic objects that keep your hair in place.

Personal hygiene

There's normally a wide selection of personal hygiene products. Many English people like to soak in a long, hot bath, and so there's a huge market in bath oils, bath salts or bubble bath – all ways to add nice smells to your bath! You can also buy nail scissors and emery boards (to file your nails) and pumice stone, to rub away dry skin from your feet. For oral hygiene, you can buy toothbrushes, toothpaste and dental floss, which is like string that you use to clean between your teeth. You can also buy face and body creams, moisturiser (cream to prevent your skin from going dry), soap and deodorant. Other items you can find in this section of the chemist are razors, to shave hair from your body, shaving foam; and feminine hygiene products, such as tampons and sanitary towels.

Make up

If you are looking for cosmetics or make-up, you can find eye-liner (or kohl), mascara (for your eyelashes) and eye-shadow, which is coloured powder to put on your eyelids. You can also buy foundation (a cream to put on your face to give an even surface), blusher (to add colour to your cheeks), lipstick (which adds colour to your lips), and lip-gloss which adds shine to your lips. To colour your nails you can use nail polish, also known as nail varnish.

AT THE OFFICE (VOCABULARY)

Where you store things

Perhaps you have a tall metal cupboard in your office with three or four drawers to put files and correspondence. This is a filing cabinet. Other people have drawers in their desk or portable drawers (drawers on wheels) in their offices.

In your filing cabinets you usually have hanging files, where you can put loose correspondence. If you want to put correspondence together, you can use folders or plastic wallets. You can also put papers in a folder and put the folder on a bookshelf.

You can also store small things on your desk. For example, perhaps you put pens in a pen holder or in a container. You might even have a desk tidy with different components for pens, rubber bands, erasers and so on.

How you attach things

To stick things together, you can use one-sided sticky tape, known in England as 'sellotape' but not as 'Scotch', which is a type of whisky! You can use a stronger type of sellotape for cardboard boxes and this is called masking tape. Or you could use glue – a sticky liquid that comes out of a bottle to stick things together.

You can attach paper with a paperclip, which is made of metal or plastic. A paperclip is the icon you can see in your email program when you want to send an attachment.

If you want to attach paper more permanently, you can use a stapler (which contains staples) to staple the pieces together. A staple is a small, sharp metal bar which has two ends that curl through the bottom sheet of paper to hold all the pieces together.

How you cut things

You can use a pair of scissors to cut paper. If you want to make two holes in the left hand margin of paper so that you can put the paper in a file, you can use a hole-punch. Line up the hole-punch on the paper, push down and you will get two circular holes in the paper.

If you want to cut something thicker than paper, you will probably need a knife. If you want to cut many pieces of paper together, you can also use a guillotine. This is a flat piece of metal with a sharp blade along one side. You lift the blade then bring it down onto the paper. (It's named after the implement used in the French Revolution.)

Office equipment

You probably have access to a printer (which needs ink cartridges), a photocopier (which needs toner), a fax machine and maybe even an overhead projector, also known as an OHP. An OHP is useful if you want to present information and project text or images onto a screen at the front of a room.

You might also have a whiteboard (to write on using whiteboard markers) or a flipchart. A flipchart is a stand with very large pieces of paper which you can write on, then flip over, to get the next piece of blank paper.

You might have a place in the office where you can leave messages and notices for other people. This is called a notice board and you need to use drawing pins to attach your notice to the board.

AT THE PETROL (BRITISH)/GAS (AMERICAN) STATION AND IN THE GARAGE

At the gas station (Conversation model)

David: I need to get some gas.

Annie: Okay let's pull into that gas station there.

David: I should check the oil too. It smelled like it was burning oil when we came over that hill.

Annie: Good idea. Make sure you check the tires too.

David: Okay, let me pull up to that pump.

Annie: I need to get some milk and bread. I'll run into the seven eleven. Do you want me to pay for the gas inside or are you going to use your card?(7-11 Convenience store).

David: You can just pay inside. It's pump number seven (7). Can you grab me something to drink too, please, I'm thirsty.

Annie: Do you want soda or juice?

David: Some apple juice. Thanks.

Annie: Shouldn't we get a car wash too while we're here?

David: Yeah you're right. That sounds like a good idea. It looks like I can vacuum it here too.

Annie: Yeah. I'll get some quarters when I'm inside.

7-11 Attendant: Next person in line please.

Annie: Just this stuff. And also I want twenty dollars (\$20) on pump number 7. Oh, and I wanted a car wash too.

7-11 Attendant: Okay. Thirty eight oh six (\$38.06) please.

Annie: Here's forty (\$40). Can I get the rest back in quarters please.

7-11 Attendant: Okay, a dollar ninety four (\$1.94) is your change. Have a nice day.

Annie: Thanks. You too.

David: That didn't take very long.

Annie: Yeah. There was only two people inside.

David: Did you get my apple juice?

Annie: No. All they had was orange juice so I got you that.

David: That's fine thanks. Okay. Tank's all full.

Annie: Okay. Here's the quarters for the vacuum and the ticket for the car wash.

David: Okay. I'll vacuum after we get the wash.

Annie: Okay.

In the garage (role- play)

>> My car was **acting up**recently and **wasn't running right**, so I took it to a mechanic to have it checked. Everytime I tried to start the car, the engine would **turn over** for a second or two and then die. The mechanic pulled the car into his garage to**look things over**. The mechanic popped the hood, checked to see if all the hoses and belts were in working

order, and then tested the car battery and battery cables. After **taking a look** at things for a few minutes and trying to get the car going, the mechanic **diagnosed** the problem as a bad alternator. He said he could fix the problem by **replacing** the alternator with a new (\$130) or a rebuilt alternator (\$80). Just diagnosing the problem cost \$65, and the labor was \$50. I asked the mechanic to go ahead and do the repairs, and he said that there was a 30-day **warranty** on parts and labor. Some mechanics might **overcharge** you for repairs, but the mechanic I go to is **fair** and does great work.

Part II: Vocabulary Exercise

Now, review the bold vocabulary above by trying this quiz. Then, return back to this page for speaking practice.

Part III: Discussion

What are some common problems people have with their cars that require a professional mechanic to fix? If you had a problem with your car, would you rather take it to a friend who fixes cars or a professional auto mechanic? Explain your reasons.

Part IV: Role Play

Your car breaks down on a lonely road, and while you're trying to figure out the problem, a man from a repair shop appears from nowhere and offers to tow your car to his shop and fix it . . . for a "price." However, to your surprise, the job cost you more than \$2,000! Now, tell a friend your story and what the man did to your car and what he promised you.

DRIVING AND ASKING THE WAY (VOCABULARY AND USEFUL EXPRESSIONS)

Excuse me. How can I get to.....?

I'm sorry, I don't know.

I'm a stranger here myself.

Thank you anyway.

Go through theintoStreet.

Turn left past the Town Hall.

That's the biggest/smallest building on the left.

You'll see post office in front of you.

You can't miss it.

Where is the entrance?

Is it far from here?

Just a few minutes on foot.

Excuse me. Where is the bus stop?

Is there a post office near here?

Over there, near the police station.

The chemist's is on the right.

The bank is on the left.

Between the post office and the cafe.

In front of the shopping centre.

Behind the taxi rank.

Next to the car park.

Excuse me, can you tell me the way to.....?

Go along Oxford Street.

Go straight on.

Turn right / turn left.

Turn right at the traffic lights.

Turn left at the roundabout.

Take the second turning on the right.

First on the right.

It's the second street on the left.

Go down the street. / Go up the street.

10 minutes by car/on foot.

5 minutes walk.

It's no distance at all.